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subject in need of such treatment in an amount effective for reducing heart weight and not effective for said diuretic and hypotensive effects.

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21. (Amended) A method for treatment of chronic heart failure by reducing heart weight not based on diuretic and hypotensive effects comprising continuously administering a substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic peptide receptor and is able to accelerate production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate to a subject in need of such treatment in an amount effective for reducing heart weight and not effective for said diuretic and hypotensive effects.

Please add new claims 22-27 as follows:

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--22. A method for treatment of cardiac hypertrophy by reducing heart weight not based on diuretic and hypotensive effects comprising continuously administering a substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic peptide receptor and is able to accelerate production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate, to a subject in need of such treatment in an amount effective for reducing heart weight and not effective for said diuretic and hypotensive effects, wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to achieve a plasma level of about 0.5 ng/mL.

23. (Amended) A method for treatment of chronic heart failure by reducing heart weight not based on diuretic and hypotensive effects comprising continuously administering a substance that acts on guanylyl cyclase A natriuretic peptide receptor and is able to accelerate production of cyclic guanosine monophosphate to a subject in need of such treatment in an amount effective for reducing heart weight and not effective for said

diuretic and hypotensive effects, wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to achieve a plasma level of about 0.5 ng/mL.

24. The method according to claim 22, wherein the substance is continuously administered for at least one week.

25. The method according to claim 23, wherein the substance is continuously administered for at least one week.

26. The method according to claim 22, wherein the effective amount is 0.025  $\mu\text{g/kg/min}$  in a human.

27. The method according to claim 23, wherein the effective amount is 0.025  $\mu\text{g/kg/min}$  in a human.

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